

Don't Miss It

Christmas Tree Lighting Party
Tuesday, December 9
See Comin' Up on p. 13 for details.

INSIDE

Real estate transfers p. 8



Westmount profile **GEORGE BOWSER** p. 14

Provincial election coverage

Meet all the candidates p. 7

ADQ candidate writes p. 6

PQ candidate writes p. 7

New calendar section 'Always On' p. 13

Peanut allergies fuel curb on wildlife feeding

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's ban on the feeding of squirrels and other wildlife takes on a new perspective in light of the rising incidence of peanut allergies, say Public Works officials who cleaned up an increasing residue of peanut shells this year in Westmount Park.

"We've seen a big increase in the number of daycares using Westmount Park every single day," said parks superintendent Michael Hunter. "We're talking about kids 2, 3 and 4 years old who fall on the ground or pick up the peanut shells."

"It's a whole new problem. It's life threatening."

The leftover shells in various stages of decomposition are extremely difficult to clean up and compound maintenance issues brought on by the fouling of the pond water "because people have started feeding the wild ducks." This has attracted more and more ducks to the park, which in turn produce ducklings that return the next year.

Parks crews are now *continued on p. 12*

Lexington Ave. dust-up



Lesley Aiton, left, and Linda Stein take to the microphone at the November 24 meeting of city council to ask why the city had allowed trees to be cut down at 750 Lexington Ave., where a major extension project has recently received a city permit. Removal of the trees *continued on p. 3*

Do yourself a favour: list your house with a top agent.
Platinum Club*, Hall of Fame, #3 in Quebec†

Bunny Berke
933-6781

Affiliated
Real Estate
Agent

bunnyberke@yahoo.ca
www.bunnyberke.com

RE/MAX Westmount inc.

*2006, 2007, 2008
†RE/MAX standings as of Oct. 2008



Westmount budget: Costs up, taxes unknown Draft unchanged by agglom budget

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Charging that Montreal has reneged on its Bill 22 agreement to reduce agglomeration costs to the 15 reconstituted cities, Mayor Karin Marks said Westmount has now lost the \$3 million it should have received under the 2009 island-wide budget.

Westmount's draft 2009 budget, however, was based on "the worst case scenario" and is not affected by the latest

revelations.

The turn of events came when Montreal unveiled the island's agglomeration budget November 26, showing the expected tax cuts to the suburban cities had been used to defray increased expenditures. This was only two days after Westmount had presented its draft budget showing its own strictly local costs would rise 6.3 percent to \$38.5 million.

Westmount's agglomeration share of \$40.7 million *continued on p. 10*

**christina
miller**

514.933.6781

Affiliated Real Estate Agent –
RE/MAX Westmount Broker

The most important work
we will ever do will be
within the walls of our
own homes.



WWW.MARTINROULEAU.COM

AGENT IMMOBILIER AFFILIÉ – GROUPE SUTTON CENTRE OUEST INC. COURTIER AGRÉÉ – 514.933.5800



514 933.9998
INFO@MARTINROULEAU.COM



Excellence Through Passion

514 **933.9998**
INFO@MARTINROULEAU.COM



HOMES



EXCLUSIVE

ST-MATHIEU DE BELOEIL — \$14,500,000.



LEVEY

150 DU MANOIR — \$6,750,000.



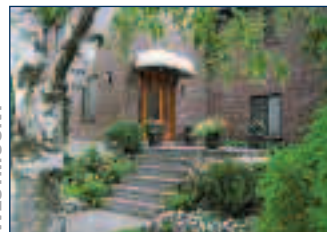
WESTMOUNT ADJ

1414 REDPATH-CRESCENT — \$3,089,000.



WESTMOUNT

4354 WESTMOUNT AV. — \$2,399,000.



WESTMOUNT

30 SURREY GARDENS — \$1,970,000.



WESTMOUNT

352-354 ELM AV. — \$1,650,000.



WESTMOUNT

3249 CEDAR AV. — \$1,499,000.



WESTMOUNT

800 LEXINGTON — \$1,399,000.



GOLDEN SQ MILE

18 CHELSEA PLACE — \$1,399,000.



WESTMOUNT

121 ARLINGTON AV. — \$1,225,000.



WESTMOUNT

631 ROSLYN — \$1,149,000.



DUNDEE

300 DE LA POINTE FRASER — \$999,000.



BROWNSEBURG-CHATAM

634 ROUTE DES OUTAOUAIS — \$895,500.



WESTMOUNT

34 THORNHILL — \$839,000.



WESTMOUNT

328-330 GROSVENOR AV. — \$789,000.



WESTMOUNT

9-11 PARKMAN PLACE — \$784,000.



NDG

3461 NORTHCLIFFE AV. — \$719,000.

CONDOS



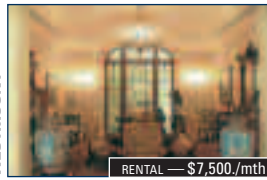
NUN'S ISLAND

11 O'REILLY, PH-42 — \$2,499,000.



OLD MONTREAL

650 NOTRE-DAME, W., PH-1703 — \$2,375,000.



WESTMOUNT

227 CLARKE AV., PH-1 — \$1,669,000.



DOWNTOWN

1227 SHERBROOKE, W., #52 — \$1,499,000.



OLD MONTREAL

389 ST-PAUL W., PH-702 — \$1,399,000.



OLD MONTREAL

38 MCGILL, PH-81 — \$950,000.



DOWNTOWN

1509 SHERBROOKE, W., #66 — \$829,000.



DOWNTOWN

3577 ATWATER AV., #602 — \$795,000.



WESTMOUNT

4104 DORCHESTER, W. — \$699,000.



WESTMOUNT ADJ

3982 COTE DES NEIGES, #A44 — \$599,000.
3982 COTE DES NEIGES, #A1-A2 — \$449,000.



NDG

4361 DECARIE BLVD., #202 — \$537,000.



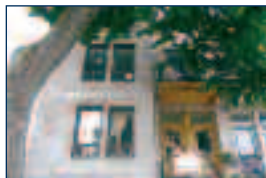
DOWNTOWN

117 ST-NORBERT AV., #3 — \$515,000.



NDG

4361 DECARIE BLVD., #403 — \$439,000.



WESTMOUNT

273 MELVILLE AV. — \$435,000.



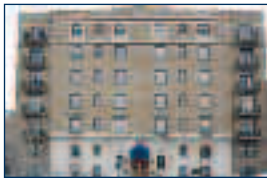
DOWNTOWN

1001 PL MONT-ROYAL, #1006 — \$399,000.



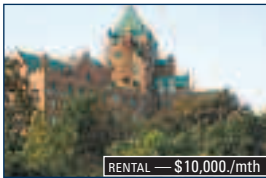
WESTMOUNT

3 WESTMOUNT-SQUARE, #511 — \$335,000.



PLATEAU

406 DES PINS, #75 — \$279,000.



WESTMOUNT ADJ

3980 COTE DES NEIGES, PH C-59 — \$10,000./mth

WWW.MARTINROULEAU.COM

AFFILIATED REAL ESTATE AGENT – GROUPE SUTTON CENTRE OUEST INC. BKR. – 514.933.5800

Santa's watching



Commander Wilson has attended most city council meetings since being introduced in August.

Commander Michel Wilson, commandant at Westmount's local police station 12, announced the annual holiday campaign against drinking and driving at the November 24 city council meeting. He also reported he was undertaking his own foot patrol in the commercial areas to introduce himself to local merchants. The chief later noted that his Westmount personnel had been in charge of the recent Santa Claus parade that originated in the Station 12 sector. "We were in charge of Santa. So if Santa brings you lots of presents, you have our staff to thank!" he quipped.

Orpheus Singers hit hard by feds' arts cuts

Federal cuts in funding to the arts have hit close to home and may even force the prize-winning Orpheus Singers to disband after 27 years, says Westmounter Henry Olders.

Olders is making public the plight of the chamber choir public just as it prepares to perform its traditional Christmas concert at St. Matthias' Church December 6 at 8 pm. The choir, in which he and his wife, Helen Rainville, have sung for several years, is especially known for its repertoire of less familiar and complex works spanning six centuries.

"This year is especially critical for the survival of our choir," Olders explains. "When the government reduced funding to amateur choirs several years ago, our annual grant was discontinued. Unless we are able to raise additional funds this year through increased ticket sales or sources of revenue such as ads in our program, we will be forced to fold."

Police nab 3 of 5 dépanneur robbers

Three of five suspects who held up the Couche Tard store on St. Catherine St. across from Alexis Nihon Plaza November 25 were arrested in connection with a robbery spree, police report.

The holdup occurred about 12:03 am when five young men entered the dépanneur one by one. One ordered the clerk to hand over cash and cigarettes while simulating a handgun under his jacket. Another loaded the loot into a backpack before all fled. Soon after, police arrested a young man trying to rob a taxi driver nearby.

Later, five robbers made off with \$200 and 10 cartons of smokes from a convenience store just east of Atwater. Police from Westmount station 12 and the intervention unit chased one suspect on foot who dropped an imitation gun before being arrested. Meanwhile another cabbie was robbed. Investigators quickly linked the crimes.

"In all cases, the victims did the right thing," says community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. "In a holdup, never re-

sist. Do exactly what you're told. It's not worth your life, or the pain of injury and lost time from work. Call 911 immediately."

Neighbours want more info

continued from p. 1

has totally changed the neighbourhood and left their homes "exposed," they said. They also asked why they had not been informed of the work being undertaken at the heritage home. Mayor Karin Marks replied, "It's the law" and also said that no permit was required for the removal of the trees in question. The residents were also joined in their concern by another neighbour.

"It's absurd that neighbours can't view plans for construction they will then see daily once built," said Councillor Patrick Martin, who represents the district.



Avenue des Arts

Fine Arts Supplies

Serving the Westmount art community 7 days a week

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS:

- Portfolio
- Field painting box
- Book on a favorite artist
- Premium watercolour brushes
- Hardwood or steel studio easel
- Pad or block of watercolour paper
- Handmade hardwood painting palette
- Japanese Ink (Sumi-E) set in enameled box
- Hand forged Japanese stainless-steel palette knife
- Drawing, painting, watercolour or pastel collection set

HOURS:
mon-fri: 10-7pm thurs: 10-9pm
sat: 10-5pm sun: 12-5pm



328A Avenue Victoria

514-843-1881





Jacques
CHAGNON
An experienced representative,
serving the citizens of
Westmount-Saint-Louis



**Say YES to the economy first
in Westmount-Saint-Louis: VOTE.**

**Monday, December 8th, 2008,
9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**THE ECONOMY
FIRST YES**

Jacques Chagnon Committee 2325 Guy St. 514 933-4483 wsl2008@bellnet.ca

Paid and authorized by Émile Fattal, official agent of the Liberal Party of Quebec.

At Second Glance

Investigating dropping out: Science or politics?

BY HEATHER BLACK



At election and convention time, youth dropout and crime rates take centre stage. At the recent Conservative convention, some suggested rehabilitation rather than punishment, while recently the ADQ promised to reduce the rate for boys from 30 to 15 percent.

And these are important issues. Quebec has very high dropout rates. Yet local research on delinquent youth by Dr. Richard Tremblay that led to positive results – decreased crime and higher rates of graduation – is not being implemented.

Judicial intervention

This fall, Dr. Tremblay, director of the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development at the University of Montreal, presented a paper proving that placement – the most extreme form of judicial intervention – only increased criminal behaviour in youth.

According to the “labelling perspective,” intervention by the judicial system modifies self-perception and reduces an offender’s social opportunities. Also, placement increases “deviant peer contagion,” hinders school performance and increases membership in deviant social

groups.

Dr Tremblay’s research also indicates that those targeted by the criminal justice system were “the poorest, the most impulsive and least supervised by their parents.” To decrease youth crime, he recommends reducing the stigma attached to judicial intervention, and the grouping of deviant youths, while implementing early prevention.

Last year, the release of the 15-year follow-up of Dr. Tremblay’s “Montreal Longitudinal Experimental Study” proved that intervention at the elementary school level works.

A role for schools

The key is to pair a disruptive 7-year-old with a well-adjusted peer. For the at-risk boy, psychologists offered social skills training and, for parents, effective child-rearing techniques. In this study, 85 percent of participants and 75 percent of parents completed at least two-thirds of the sessions.

The long-term follow-up revealed that, in comparison with the control group, the 250 at-risk boys did significantly better at age 24. 13 percent more graduated from high school and 11 percent less acquired a criminal record. These results are encouraging. While the percentages appear low, in fact, the increased number of graduates approximates Mario Dumont’s goal of 15 percent.

But, while pairing the “disruptive” child with the “well-behaved” one is an intuitive solution, it is not typical childhood behaviour and requires teacher cooperation. But, at the time of the intervention (1985 to 1987), teachers demonstrated little interest – only half met with psychologists to discuss teaching strategies for the participant.

Another issue was the cost. But at only several thousand compared to over \$100,000 for the placement of a violent youth offender, this is a small price to pay.

Agents of change

What is needed is political will. Compared to the national average of 10 percent, the high-school dropout rate in Quebec is abysmal. Yet made-in-Quebec solutions – like those offered by the “Montreal Longitudinal Experimental Study” – could be implemented by a number of agents, including individual teachers and school boards, as well as the ministry.

Dr. Tremblay is intent on spreading the word so that at-risk youth get help. But his message is also a timely reminder that, when all children are taught well, everyone benefits.

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer.
Contact her: atcitizen@gmail.com

Moon over the moon

Westmounter Dawn Ford is acting in Patrick de Moss’ *La Bella Luna*, a musical about the Moon falling in love with the



main character, Thomas. Moss – a Montrealer – is the director and playwright, and is presenting a reworked version of the 10-year-old play for the first time. Among the themes of the contemporarily set play are what is “real” and what is “normal” in today’s society.

What attracted Ford to the play? “The faeries,” she mischievously told the *Independent*. More seriously, Thomas’ predicament – only he sees many of the characters – and the various levels of meaning drew her in. Despite Thomas’ possible problems, in the end the play “is a story of hope,” according to Ford.

The play runs at the Mainline Theatre (3997 St. Lawrence Blvd., 514.481.8406) from December 4 to 13.

A creative response

Squirrel-gate

BY BRUCE KERT

Walked out one morning, didn’t hear a sound;
Found some peanuts lying on the ground;
Tossed to a squirrel coming down from a tree;
Puzzled and wondering, “What could this be?”
A cop in his car, saying it’s too late;
Writing out a ticket for Squirrel-gate.

I asked for a warning, he simply refused;
I went to contest it, now it’s big news.
...
My ticket and problems were to escalate,
All on account of Squirrel-gate.

You may have your troubles, that can change in time;
But of what of this problem, this terrible crime;
The world found out at a blistering rate:
Don’t get involved in Squirrel-gate.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Most frequently restocked drop sites: Lobby of 310 Victoria Ave.; Sherbrooke St. exit to Metro grocery store at Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St.

Drop notice: Snow conditions may delay us getting around to all of our drop sites on Tuesday of publication week. Whatever the snow conditions, we still aim to reach our “most reliable” drops (Metro on Victoria, Westmount Square and 310 Victoria lobby) on Tuesdays.

EDITOR & PUBLISHER:

David Price 514.935.4537

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR:

Kristin McNeill 514.223.3578

indie@westmountindependent.com

CHIEF REPORTER:

Laureen Sweeney

laureen@westmountindependent.com

LAYOUT: Studio Melrose/Ted Sancton

Weekly until December 17

Next issue: December 10

Presstime: Monday before, at 10:30 am

Westmount (H3Y and H3Z):

10,000 copies by Canada Post

1,000 copies distributed to over

40 waiting-room drops

ADVERTISING SALES:

Annika Melanson

514.223.3567

PUBLISHED BY:

Sherbrooke-Valois Inc.

310 Victoria Ave., Suite 105

Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9

Fax: 514.935.9241

Peace medal goes to Rosenhek

Westmounter Andy Rosenhek was awarded a 2008 Peace Medal by the YMCA of Greater Montreal last week. He was one of seven Montrealers who were chosen among 17 individuals and groups who have shown “a deep, concrete commitment to bringing peace into their daily lives.”



Andy Rosenhek

Rosenhek, a Selwyn House and recent McGill graduate, was recognized for his volunteer work abroad. According to the YMCA, he has raised more than \$14,000 since 2007 to help support a school and build an orphanage in Tanzania. He is currently working on a website aimed at making international volunteering more affordable and efficient.

Letters to the editor

CLEAN AND TIDY CITY

As I convalesce at the Chateau Westmount, I seem to be spending a good deal of time in my recliner, at the window, overlooking de Maisonneuve Blvd.

I am constantly amazed at the number of leaf blowers, street cleaners and sidewalk sweepers going by, working so diligently.

We do indeed live in a wonderfully organised, clean and tidy community.

Thank you!

LORNA BELLE KERTLAND,
DE MAISONNEUVE

BIKE PATH: OPEN LETTER OR CLOSED ISSUE?

I was surprised to see an open letter addressed to me in November 25's *Independent* (p. 5), as I had already replied to the writer in person.

With regard to better signs: Westmount has asked the city of Montreal to install signs warning about the closure of the bicycle path westbound between Atwater and Greene. At that point, westbound bicycle traffic will have to share the road with other vehicles, as they do elsewhere.

I have also asked Public Works to install signs west of Greene, so that eastbound cyclists have options other than the compulsory right turn on Greene Avenue.

I have also asked for a review of references to the bicycle path on the city's website.

GEORGE BOWSER, CITY COUNCILLOR

BIKE PATH PARKING 'A SHAME'

Is it not a shame that Westmount has not shown the perspicacity to remove permanently the parking on the south side of de Maisonneuve between Atwater and Greene? This is a vital link in the cross-town cycling path.

After the artificial turf debacle, the loss of parkland to a fenced soccer fields and concrete aprons, and the incredible expenditure of monies for a masonry wall on the north side of this fenced soccer field, a

reasonable citizen would think that Westmount would have invested at least certain sums of money in not only maintaining its lone cycling path, but improving it in a way that would even outdesign and outperform Montreal.

Is this not a lost opportunity to at least symbolically show that Westmount intends to be more green? Westmount could have gone ahead by coordinating lights along de Maisonneuve to encourage self-reliant cycling, by signage that would give priority to cyclists and pedestrians, by a year-round cycling path with high-priority snow clearing.

If Westmount really wanted to make a gesture, it would find a way to give de Maisonneuve over totally to pedestrians and cyclists, and other means of self-reliant transport.

It would then be seen as the greenway extension of Westmount Park.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

ARENA POSITIONS: MINORITY INTEREST? BEST INTEREST?

Regarding J. D. Miller's letter to the *Independent* (November 11, p. 6). "Westmount needs first-class facilities", several comments seem warranted:

1. Mr. Miller begins his letter by referring to Mr. Ikeman's opinion piece (November 4, p. 8) as one "where he lobbies against Westmount's plan to expand its recreation facilities."

This appears, a wilful misrepresentation of Mr. Ikeman's article, which unequivocally acknowledges the need for "modernizing and improving" the arena/pool complex.

Concerning the proposal to construct an installation housing two NHL-size ice surfaces and other amenities, Mr. Ikeman raises entirely legitimate concerns about the impact of a major new structure in the limited space in this immediate neighbourhood, concerns that are shared by many other residents of this area.

His piece also addresses the significant financial impact of the project on the entire Westmount population.

2. Mr. Miller continues by expressing his general concerns about "vocal, energized and negative" minority interests who "seem to be dictating agendas and controlling outcomes." Specifically, he refers to the synthetic turf issue and cites the activity of a "small but vocal group" – presumably referring to Save the Park! – who "managed an outcome that led to reconstruction with natural grass" and "satisfied their own personal objectives while ignoring the considerations of the larger Westmount community".

I might remind Mr. Miller that the city's decision to opt for grass was made following a May 2007 public meeting attended by approximately 400 citizens, of whom perhaps 395 were not members of the aforementioned group. Does Mr. Miller really believe that this community decision was "managed" by a small group of "minority interests"?

And that by extension, any group (e.g. the Westmount Arena Moderation Campaign/WAMCAM) or individual that questions aspects of the present arena project, is also pursuing "personal objectives" at the expense of "the greater good of the community"?

3. The last paragraph is offensive. "Oh... and by the way while I can only assume that Mr. Ikeman has the community's best interest at heart, a check of the local phone directory indicates that he resides directly across the street from the arena."

Indeed he does, and so do several hundred other residents, including myself. We all share the same concerns and none of us are amused by this bit of laboured sarcasm. Particularly as it originates from an enclave (Grove Park) located a safe distance from the construction site.

PETER WELDON, ACADEMY RD.

MORE ARENA QUESTIONS

The proposed renovation of Westmount's arena/pool facility raises questions that need to be answered:

In addition to the indoor rink at the arena, Westmount provides at least three well maintained outdoor hockey rinks in

Mourning India terror victims

Friends and associates are mourning the loss of two Westmount health-care professionals killed November 27 in the terror rampage in Mumbai (Bombay), India.

Dr. Michael Moss and his longtime companion, psychiatric social worker Elizabeth Russell had been on a month's vacation together, but were reportedly slain in separate incidents. Both lived on Burton Ave.

They had worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. For several years now, Moss has devoted himself to his work at the Julius Richardson convalescent hospital in NDG. Russell worked at the Jewish General and has maintained a practice in Westmount. At press time, funeral arrangements had not been announced.

close proximity to heated buildings that serve as dressing rooms. Do feasibility and cost/benefit studies take into account the existence of these outdoor rinks, including how much hockey time is presently scheduled on them and to what extent more time could be scheduled as an alternative to providing a second indoor hockey rink at the arena?

How many indoor and outdoor hockey rinks are provided by other Montreal municipalities or boroughs of about Westmount's population and how do those with only one indoor rink manage the situation?

Before approving any significantly enlarged project scope beyond the essential work needed to renovate existing arena/pool facilities, the following question should be resolved by Westmount's taxpayers in a referendum:

Which will be more appreciated by Westmount's taxpayers – a legacy of debt financing and increased ongoing costs of operation to pay for a grandiose arena/pool facility, or a legacy of prudent financial management?

JOHN D. DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

RE/MAX WESTMOUNT INC.

CHARTERED REAL ESTATE BROKER
Independently owned and operated

1330 Greene Ave.
Westmount

514 **933-6781**



RE/MAX WESTMOUNT INC.

CHARTERED REAL ESTATE BROKER
Independently owned and operated

5673 Monkland
N.D.G.

514 **482-3347**

December at the Galleries

Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger
“Small Works”, paintings. Exhibit continues to December 25.
4928 Sherbrooke St. 514.481.2111

Galerie de Bellefeuille
Bobbie Burgers, paintings. Vernissage: December 4 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to December 15.
1367 Greene Ave. 514.933.4406

Galerie D’Este
New artists: Jean-Pierre Larocque, drawings; Ludmila Armata, prints.
1329 Greene Ave. 514.846.1515

Galerie Sandra Goldie
Adria Collins, paintings. Exhibit continues to December 5.
4898 de Maisonneuve, suite 100.
514.670.8327

La Galerie sur Greene
Cheryl Sourkes, webcam; Marion Wagshal, paintings at Belgo Building.
1368 Greene Ave. 514.938.3863

Gallery at Victoria Hall
Pierre Desjardins, paintings; Claire Salzburg, ceramics. Exhibit continues to December 18.
4626 Sherbrooke St.

Han Art
Graham Metson, paintings. Exhibit continues to December 20.
4209 St. Catherine St. 514.876.9278

McClure Gallery – Visual Arts Centre
Kay Aubanel and Elisabeth Galante. Exhibit continues to December 20.
350 Victoria Ave. 514.488.955

ADQ: Autonomy and private care

The *Independent* recently emailed ADQ candidate for Westmount - St. Louis, Léonidas Priftakis, for his thoughts on two questions.

WI: The ADQ is an autonomist party, with a leader who was a strong separatist during the 1995 referendum. Why should federalists vote ADQ? Why should anglo- and allophones? Or do you want their votes at all?

LP: The ADQ is interested in reaching all Quebecers, including anglophones and allophones... ADQ leader Mario Dumont gave up sovereignty after 1995, and the ADQ built and officially adopted its own constitutional position, autonomy. Many federalists are, in fact, autonomists without knowing it. Autonomy is about Quebec controlling most of its own matters while staying within Canada. This is called affirmation without separation. It is different from the Liberal

federalism in that autonomists are not hand-tied by their alliances and clearly distinguish federal from provincial responsibilities. It is different from the sovereignists in that autonomists want to negotiate with the federal government without the threat of a referendum.

WI: How would you redress the shortage of doctors and nurses that has arisen because of the cuts to health care that were imposed under a previous administration?

LP: Most surgeons operate only one or two days a week because of the lack of operating rooms; as a result, they do tasks that are normally those of general physicians, who, in turn, do many tasks that could be assigned elsewhere. Nurses have to do tasks that patient attendants and maintenance staff should normally do. By redistributing workloads properly, it is possible to allow physicians and surgeons to work more, and better. Also, facilities like operating rooms are closed on evenings and weekends; by renting those facilities to the private sector, we would facilitate more operations and bring additional funds into the public system. Finally, doctors would be allowed to work in the private system only once they have done their workload in the public sector.



Léonidas Priftakis

Apartment wanted

Senior Westmount couple seek warm 1 or 2-bedroom apartment with elevator for winter rental. Preferably furnished. Local references. Phone 514 932-1445

A fabulous Christmas!

New Look is offering you a gift certificate worth **\$100** for *DVDs from Imavision!* With the purchase of a complete pair of ophthalmic glasses.*



More than 400 DVD titles.



Le Faubourg Ste. Catherine
1620 Ste. Catherine St. W.
(corner of Guy St. ☎ Guy-Concordia)
514 905-0471



Eye examinations on the premises by optometrists • Outside prescriptions accepted www.newlook.ca 1 800 463-LOOK (5665)

*This offer is valid with the purchase of a complete pair of glasses featuring ophthalmic lenses with scratch-resistant treatment and a frame of your choice selected from among all of our collections in stock. This offer is valid until December 24, 2008 and cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Offer valid in Quebec only. Details in stores. Michel Laurendeau, optician.



Meet the candidates for the provincial election

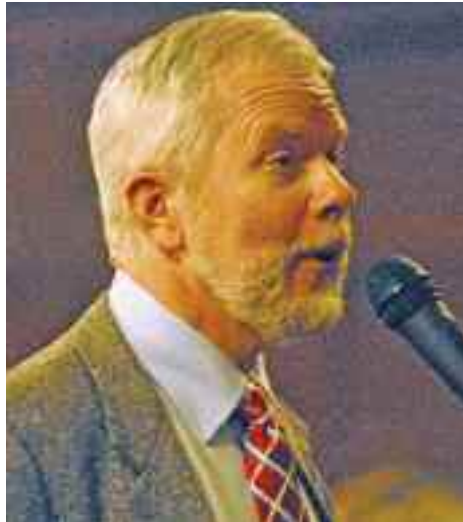
BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

Five provincial parties were represented at the meet-the-candidates session at Victoria Hall on November 27 hosted by the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) and the Westmount *Examiner*. Approximately 50 people attended. Incumbent Jacques Chagnon for the Quebec Liberal Party defended the government's call for an election by stating that a majority government is crucial during an economic crisis.

Also returning to the campaign trail were Patrick Daoust for the Green Party of Quebec, who spoke mostly about electoral reform, and Québec Solidaire's Nadia Alexan. New candidates are Daniella Johnson-Meneghini for the PQ and Action Démocratique's Léonidas Priftakis, who was unable to attend but sent Ahamed Badawy to speak on his behalf.

Referendum message mixed

Johnson-Meneghini opened by saying she was running to try to reverse the trend of low voter turnout and to induce young voters to be more interested. Her message about a referendum was mixed. She asked that people "forget about the referendum. Pauline Marois has said so many times, but people are still scared... They think that voting for the PQ is voting for a 'yes' for the referendum, which is not true..." but also said "[The referendum] will come in many years. It is not in our plan yet; it is not for the next five years to come."



Lansdowne resident Henry Olders asked the Liberal and PQ what they would do "to ensure provincial law ... is properly observed in the creation of entities such as the [Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal]." Liberal candidate Chagnon stressed the need for an enquiry about what had happened, but – from what he had read so far – it did seem that the body had been created without Quebec's knowledge or approval.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith.

Alexan described Québec Solidaire as a progressive party that discouraged public-private partnerships and unregulated financial institutions; and that supported fair trade, protection of the environment, fair distribution of wealth and lower, state-negotiated pharmaceutical pricing.

Of the dozen or so questions from the audience, most were directed to Chagnon, in combination with either Daoust or

Johnson-Meneghini. Melville resident Patrick Barnard asked the Liberal and Green candidates about the *Parc écologique de l'archipel de Montréal*, an initiative to protect natural spaces in southwestern Quebec. Neither candidate could answer with any specifics. Daoust pointed out that the Greens were committed to protecting 15 percent of natural spaces versus the Liberal's 8 percent goal. Chagnon replied that "your new idea is not very well-known, but I am sympathetic with the idea of protecting territory" and asked the audience to remember that 7.6 percent of Quebec land is protected – up from 2 percent in 2003.

Boreal forests

A question from Lorraine Ave.'s Rosalind Davis was put in French to the Liberal, Green and ADQ candidates on the protection of the boreal forest in light of Ontario's goal to protect 50 percent of its northern spaces and Quebec's lower protection level. Daoust responded that the Greens would augment protected spaces to 15 percent and that they would review the way in which boreal forests are managed. Badawy for the ADQ responded that regional autonomy would be the better strategy for "modernizing the efficiency of the replanting programs." Chagnon's defense was to recall previous reforestation initiatives, such as the late 1980s replanting initiative, and later the 2004 Coulombe Commission, which recommended reducing the allowable cut. Chagnon said boreal forests must remain protected.

PQ: Independence some day, better health record

The *Independent* recently emailed Parti Québécois candidate for Westmount-St. Louis, Daniella Johnson-Meneghini, three questions. Her answers:

WI: The PQ is a separatist party. Westmount is a strongly federalist area in a strongly federalist riding. Why should federalists vote PQ? Why should anglophone and allophones? Or do you want their votes at all?

DJM: The PQ is, was and always will be a party in favour of the independence of Quebec; it has been created for that purpose. But we do acknowledge that many are not ready yet to answer the question that will be asked in a referendum. Pauline Marois' plan to set aside the idea of holding a referendum will allow the party time to answer questions and make independence appealing to a majority of people. Federalists – and anglophones, allophones and francophones – should keep in mind that voting PQ is not necessarily



Daniella Johnson-Meneghini

riding who would like to choose a more left-leaning alternative to the Liberal Party of Quebec. What would be an incentive for such a constituent to switch their vote from the Liberals to your party?

DJM: Indeed, the Parti Québécois is a social democratic party whose #1 priority

voting for separatism. In order to achieve the country that lives inside of us, we need everyone, from every origin and horizon. The Parti Québécois is one of inclusion that greatly values integration with respect to every citizen's origins and history.

WI: You could be a viable option for some people in the Westmount-St. Louis

is helping all citizens overcome their daily challenges and live better lives. The main difference between the Parti Québécois and all other parties is our global and comprehensive approach to social issues.

WI: How would you redress the shortage of doctors and nurses that has arisen because of the cuts to health care that your party imposed when last in power?

DJM: Because of the deficit left behind by the Liberals when last in power, the Parti Québécois did what had to be done to save the Quebec public health care system that is our pride – and an inspiration worldwide. It was not an easy decision. According to official data from the ministry of Education, the number of admissions into medical school rose from 406 to 611 between 1999 and 2003. Under the Charst government, admission increase was from 611 to 772, insufficient to satisfy the needs and to fulfill the promises he has broken twice.

Election facts

- The provincial election takes place Monday, December 8. Final advance polls are available on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 2 and 3, from 9 am to 9 pm; and Thursday, December 4 from 9 am to 2 pm. For more details and information, go to www.monvote.qc.ca or contact the returning officer:

Christian Gohel
3500 de Maisonneuve Blvd.,
2 Place Alexis Nihon #1450
Tel: 514.932.4003
Fax: 514.932.7137

- Any one of the following is acceptable identification for voting: a health insurance card; a driver's license; a Canadian passport; a certificate of Indian status; or a Canadian Forces ID.
- For in-depth interview of the first (Jacques Chagnon, Liberal) and second (Patrick Daoust, Green) place finishers last election, consult the November 25 *Independent* (p. 11-12). It is available online at www.westmountindependent.com.



Maria Santini

514.939.9927
CELL 266.9927
FAX 939.5717

ROYAL LEPAGE WESTMOUNT
Chartered Real Estate Broker

ROYAL LEPAGE



Traditional Westmount stone Mansion

Extraordinary garden on 9,370 sq. ft. lot. 5 bdrs + den, large rooms for entertaining, leaded windows and moldings, 2-car garage and parking. **\$2,185,000.**

Desirable Westmount Square

Very bright, impeccable apt. with 2 bdrs + 2 bath, 1,400 sq. ft. Bldg. has swimming pool, gym and terrace. Interior passage to the Metro and concourse. With boutiques, banks, restaurants, clinics and much, much more. **\$559,000.**



Recent sales:

2300 du Souvenir, apt. 203. \$219,000
Westmount Sq., apt. 308. \$349,000
Fort de la Montagne, apt. 307. \$889,000

mariasantini@sympatico.ca

Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since April 25, 2008

For real transfers,
please see the paper copy.

WESTMOUNT
INDEPENDENT



9234 5678 9012 3456

NAME:
McGUIGAN PEPIN INC.
JOAN & JILL PRÉVOST
BRIAN DUTCH
MARIE SICOTTE
CHRISTINA MILLER
BUNNY BERKE
JOYCE FAUGHNAN
CHRISTOPHER GARDINER
TANIA KALECHEFF
MARTIN ROULEAU

MEMBER SINCE:
OCTOBER 1, 2006
JUNE 20, 2007
SEPTEMBER 5, 2007
MARCH 19, 2008
APRIL 16, 2008
MAY 20, 2008
AUGUST 26, 2008
AUGUST 26, 2008
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
DECEMBER 2, 2008

GALERIE WALTER KLINKHOFF

ADVISING ART COLLECTORS FOR OVER 50 YEARS

We buy paintings of quality.



Lawren Harris (1885-1970) *Rocks, Spruce and Hill, Lake Superior*, ca. 1922

1200 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1H6
www.klinkhoff.com (514) 288-7306 info@klinkhoff.com



TRUST | REACH | RESULTS

CHARTERED REAL ESTATE BROKER

LE SUD OUEST

**DU CANAL ST.**

Loft studio, in the Corticelli, close to Downtown & Old Montreal, next to canal and bicycle path. Perfect pied à terre-wood floors, big windows, renovated bath, large kitchen overlooking interior garden, open living/dining/bedroom area and Murphy bed. Easy parking.

Asking \$209,000

VILLE-MARIE

**REDPATH ST.**

Golden Square Mile located above Sherbrooke and the Musée des Beaux Arts, lovely three (3) bedroom condo with balcony, bright and spacious – Downtown living, steps to bistros, shops, universities and hospitals. Asking below municipal evaluation. Motivated vendor.

Asking \$375,000

LE SUD OUEST

**DU CANAL ST.**

Loft at a great price/value in the area. Walk to downtown, Old Montreal, Griffintown, Atwater Market, bikers paradise – Views, tremendous light from corner unit. Contemporary design – exposed beams, brick, open kitchen. Garage, spring occupancy.

Asking \$295,000

WESTMOUNT-ADJ.

**SHERBROOKE W. ST.**

Le Barat –10th flr Large and bright 3 bdrm, 2 bthrm condo. N/W corner unit with panoramic views on Westmount & Mt Royal. L-shaped living room & dining room, opening onto 12x5 balcony. Doorman, hot tub, 2 garages. Fees include heat, electricity, a/c, hot water. Steps from Metro Atwater.

Asking \$459,000

WESTMOUNT

**MOUNT PLEASANT AVE.**

Steps from the #1 English private girls school in Montreal, Miss Edgar's & Miss Cramp's. Here is the perfect house for you. Fabulous ground fl. with 3 fps, den, enormous kit. & sunroom. 5 bedrooms, master ensuite, huge skylight flooding the house with light. Views from every level. Front garage + big garden and deck.

Asking \$1,200,000

WESTMOUNT

**ROSEMOUNT CR.**

Classic detached stone home in move-in condition and exquisitely renovated from A-Z. Superbly located mid-level with views from upper floors. Central air, secluded garden, street level garage on Severn. The perfect house designed for today's needs. No wasted space! A must see! Won't last.

Asking \$1,395,000

WESTMOUNT

**MELBOURNE AVE.**

The unparalleled charm of this enchanting, turn of century det. home is a must see! Next to Westmount Park on a quiet street, the quaint architecture and luxurious space will captivate you. Special features incl. f/p, a/c, eat-in kit., main flr den, private outdoor space, deluxe Master Suite/expansive built-ins.

Asking \$1,445,000

OLD HAMPSHIRE

**HEATH RD.**

This picture perfect det. house is a young family's dream. W/ its stone and wood façade it boasts every modern convenience and is timelessly reno. w/ refined taste. Easily acc. to every mode of transp. 28 ft. master bdrm/sitting room w ensuite granite bthrm. Other feat. incl. a/c, two car tandem garage, 2 more bthrms, a huge vestiare, a ground flr pwrdr, a fini. basement and a lovely garden.

Asking: \$759,000. Hurry!

Anybody can put you on the market –
we'll put you in the market.

Contact us!

Tax rate undetermined, but one bill

continued from p. 1

will bring the city's projected cost of local and island services to \$79.2 million, an overall increase of 1.34 percent over 2008.

It has not yet been determined how this will translate into the tax rate and individual tax bills.

Despite agreements resulting in the



Duncan Campbell presents budget.

widely publicized signing of Bill 22 in June, Montreal has once again found a way around a more equitable cost-sharing with the demerged municipalities, Marks told the *Westmount Independent*.

"The problem in all this is that Quebec has the ability to tell us what should be, but no one seems to be able to control Montreal," she said.

In 2009, for the first time since the reconstitution of Westmount as an autonomous municipality, the city will collect all taxes, out of which it will send its share of island services, such as police, fire and transit, to the agglomeration council. This measure was granted to the demerged cities under Quebec Bill 22, enabling them flexibility in collecting the money in a form of variable tax rate.

Looking back 10 years, Westmount's combined 2009 budget of \$79.2 million is significantly larger than the closely comparable combined Westmount/MUC figure of \$53 million in 1999, even adjusting for inflation.

Reflects many challenges

In Westmount's draft budget for 2009, general increases in most city departments reflect pay scale increases expected in new collective agreements, Marks explained at the budget presentation during the council meeting November 24.

The budget also reflects the challenges the city has undergone as a result of the merger period and those it now faces, city director general Duncan Campbell said in presenting his first Westmount budget.

Some of those include a phased-in injection of additional pay-as-you-go financing to help reduce the city's debt, increasing interest on debt service, a safety net for employee pension funds if markets continue their downward spiral, and an increased amount for unusual snowfall.

The 2009 municipal election, full im-

plementation of the kitchen waste compost program and the hiring of a fulltime sanitation inspector will add to expenses next year, he said. Current economic conditions are expected to bring in less revenue from the welcome tax on transfers of property.

The lion's share of revenue for the operating budget will continue to come from general property taxes, for which \$67 million will be required to fund both local and Westmount's portion of agglomeration costs.

Capital works & Hydro

And while the capital works budget includes \$7 million worth of upgrades to buildings, roads, vehicles and information systems, no allocation appears in the draft for the proposed arena renewal project.

It is intended to fund the capital works budget through pay-as-you go (\$2.5 million), the federal gas tax grant estimated at \$770,000 and loan by-laws estimated at \$4 million.

Streets slated for major work under the capital works budget are Holton, Weredale Park, York, Parkman Place, Argyle and the Bethune tunnel. Some include the replacement or rehabilitation of water mains and/or sewers.

Hydro Westmount's \$28 million budget, funded by the sale of electrical services, is expected to provide a profit of \$1.5 million to the city.

The budget is expected to be adopted at the December 15 meeting of city council when the tax rate will be established.

DEMEMAGEMENT
Westmount
MOVING

A Westmount tradition
since 1938

northAmerican
MOVING

592 Hull
LaSalle, QC H8R 1V9
Tel: (514) 366-6683 (MOVE)
Fax: (514) 366-6685
www.westmountmoving.com

NOURAIE

up to **70% off**

The largest selection
of fine Persian and
Oriental carpets

Timothy GELFAND
Affiliated Real Estate Agent
Business Broker

Personal Attention, Professional Results
Please Call Me For a Free,
Confidential Evaluation of Your Home

Cell: (514) 482-3347
Cell: (514) 807-2269
timothy.gelfand@remax.net

RE/MAX
Westmount Inc.

Salon Sophie

HAIR STYLING FOR MEN

514.484.5987

4970 Sherbrooke Street West

CHATEAU BONAVISTA
4555 Bonavista Prime location adjacent Westmount
Bachelor Suites, 3½'s, 4½'s, 5½'s from \$745 - 2,195
**4½ available immediately at \$1595.00.
One month free.**

- Beautiful Olympic-size indoor salt water pool
- Sauna • Gym • 24 hour doorman
- Indoor parking
- Heating, hot water, air conditioning, and appliances included

Call 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. 7 days
514-481-8163

www.cromwellmgt.ca

Wishing all of our customers and friends
a happy and healthy holiday season.

CHEZ NICK

WESTMOUNT
1920

PROUDLY SERVING WESTMOUNTERS FOR 88 YEARS.
1377 Greene Avenue, Westmount • 514.935.0946

SHS celebrates 100 years



From left: Headmaster William Mitchell and Rob Wearing.



From left: Paul Mayer ('74) and William Daly ('52).



From left: David Daly ('80) and Richard Notkin ('51).

BY ISAAC OLSON

Westmount's Selwyn House School, established in 1908, marked a century of education at this year's Founder's Day celebration on November 26.

During the event, SHS officials hon-

oured the 2008 Speirs Medal recipient Rob Wearing, who, from 1973 to 2006, worked at numerous posts including head of the secondary school, teacher, coach and athletics director.

The annual award is given to those who have made a significant contribution to

the school. The SHS community also bid farewell to William Mitchell, headmaster since 1984, who will be retiring in December. Held in the gymnasium, guests were treated to food, drinks and an award ceremony hosted by the Old Boys' Association.



Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Personal finance information for you and your family:

"Fractionnement des revenus de retraite: avantageux? Oui ou non..." by Ronald McKenzie in *Le bel âge*, novembre 2008, p. 57.

"How we found financial freedom: building wealth on a middle-class salary doesn't demand huge sacrifices" by Jeff Laverton in *Moneysense*, November 2008, p. 61.

"Living on less: times are tough, but could the new frugality make us healthier and happier than we've been in years?" by Colin Campbell and Jason Kirby in *Maclean's*, November 3, 2008, p. 43.

Christine Van Cauwenberghe *Wealth planning strategies for Canadians* 2009.

KPMG (accounting firm). *Tax planning for you and your family* (2009).

Activities for Kids

Knitting for Fun! by Jen Jones. This is a perfect introduction for kids who are just learning how to knit.

Créations du Monde by Delphine Glachant. A book filled with easy, but very creative crafts from all over the world for kids from 5 to 12 years.

Thinking about our planet

Where the Wild Things Were by William Stolzenburg. The author argues the importance of top predators, such as jaguars, pumas and sharks, in successful ecosystems and the disastrous aftermath when they are eradicated.

Home to Roost by Bob Sheasley. This is a charming and thoughtful book about the history of chicken-human interaction and an appeal for a more mindful approach to eating.

The sound of music

La musique contemporaine en 100 disques by Pierre Gervasoni. The music lover who is intrigued by contemporary music may think that it is territory reserved for the initiated. There are a tremendous amount of recordings available and this guide will give the reader a quick way to find contemporary music's essential albums and information about great composers.

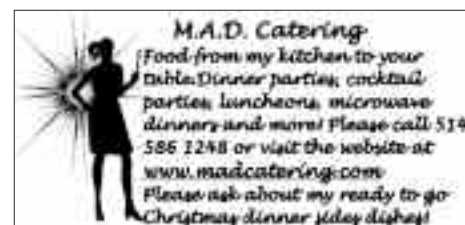
Colette Boky, le chant d'une femme by Co-

lette Boky. The unusual career of one of the most famous opera singers from the province of Quebec. As a young woman, she was a successful model and recorded a bestselling 45 rpm disc of popular music. She then went on to study classical music and, in 1967, began an 11-year career at the Metropolitan Opera of New York.

DVD delights for cool November evenings

Czech Republic: a Musical Tour of the Country's Past and Present. The music chosen for this tour starts with the first great Czech nationalist composer, Bedrich Smetana, and the younger composer Antonin Dvorak.

Shakespeare Retold – A modern retelling of Shakespeare's *Midsummer's Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado about Nothing* and the *Taming of the Shrew*.



PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

You can help by donating USED BOOKS to KIDZSAFE FOUNDATION, to fund our educational programmes for kids.

Call for pick-up 514.702.4930

GINETTE & JEFF STEELE



Milkman – Home Delivery



Notaries

Durso & Toone

Andrea F. Durso • Philip Toone

4635 Sherbrooke West
Westmount, Quebec

T. 514.931.2531

F. 514.931.2534



Foot Care Clinics

Initial Visit: \$30

Additional Visits: \$25

Queen Elizabeth Health Complex

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Call: 514 866-6801

Griffith McConnell Residence

Fridays

Call: 514 482-0590

Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the Indie at supper time on Tuesdays!

Sign up by writing us:

indie@westmountindependent.com.

‘Do what it takes’ to discourage wildlife nesting and feeding

.....
continued from p. 1

being diverted from other tasks to pick up the shells, clean the pond and cut away the lower branches of bushes to discourage the nesting of ducks and rodents.

“We’ll do whatever is necessary to make our parks safe,” explained Marianne Zalzal, interim Public Works director.

When Westmount adopted its by-law against the feeding of wildlife November 7, 1998, it was responding to the nuisance caused by pigeons roosting on balconies, and also aimed at discouraging squirrels, rodents and “vermin” as disease carriers.

Now with a prevalence of peanut aller-

gies that is causing some schools to go peanut-free, the concern for the feeding of squirrels has taken on new dimensions.

“Whenever we see someone feeding squirrels in the park, we talk to them about the peanut allergy,” Hunter said. And that’s what really seems to hit home. “They say it’s something they never thought about.”

Nevertheless, many people continue to feed the animals, some dumping large bags of peanuts for the squirrels, not only in the park



City pamphlet on wildlife.

but also on the sidewalk, increasing the need for vigilance by Westmount public safety officers.

One Westmount resident has been issued seven tickets for the offence this year, Public Security officials said. While the first five for \$75 each were paid, subsequent ones for \$600 and \$1,250 are outstanding. A court case is now pending.

Under the by-law, fines mount with the number of infractions.

Education is a vital component of the issue, Public Security director Richard Blondin said. Despite efforts to increase awareness through the distribution of a pamphlet, however, one local kindergarten class was seen in the park, with the teacher, feeding squirrels, he said. Public safety officers have since visited the school to explain the importance of keeping wild animals wild.

The city pamphlet states that the feeding of wildlife diminishes foraging skills, prevents them from being wary of people and can lead to increased litter sizes. Food left out for wildlife can also attract rodents.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR COMMUNITY.

These real estate entrepreneurs support support Westmount’s only Westmount-owned community newspaper.
They are real estate. We are Westmount. And we thank them.

Independent Gold Club* members

McGuigan Pepin Inc.**

Joan & Jill Prévost, Royal LePage Heritage**

Brian Dutch, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

Marie Sicotte, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Christina Miller, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

Bunny Berke, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

Joyce Faughnan, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.**

Christopher Gardiner, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.**

Tania Kalecheff, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

Martin Rouleau, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

The Originals†

Jane Allan, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Claude Boulay, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Danielle Boulay, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Julie Bourne, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Guen Calder, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Vivian & Brian Grant, Royal LePage Heritage

Peggy McMullan, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

Maria Santini, Royal LePage Heritage

The ’08 vintage

Julie Bédard, Royal LePage Heritage

Ron Benveniste & Esti Jedeikin, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

Carmen Berlie, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Edythe Berman, Royal LePage Heritage

Barbara Bourke, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Julia Daniels, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest J. D. Inc.

Terry Evans, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Timothy Gelfand, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

Patricia Hinojosa, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Sylvie Lafrenière, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

Nicole Loth, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Mitzi Morganti, Groupe Sutton Immobilia Inc.

Kathy Osgood, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Ellie Silver, Royal LePage Heritage

Nancy Taub, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

Lynda Taylor, Groupe Sutton-Centre-Ouest Inc.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

**Full-page advertisers. **Also an original. †Clients who appeared in our first four issues. Active, 2008 clients only. Please tell us of any errors.*

Comin' Up...

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) meeting takes place at the Westmount Public Library from 7 to 9 pm. Guest speaker St. Clair Armitage, MUHC, on "Public Private Partnership: a means to an end." 514.846.8464.

Wednesday, Dec. 3: New date. Montreal author **Monique Polak** reads from her new book, *What World is Left* at 10 am at the Westmount Public Library. Register at the Circulation Desk 514.989.5299.

Thursday, Dec. 4: Director General Sylvia Martin-Laforge speaks about the **Quebec Community Groups Network**, an organization dedicated to enhancing the vitality of English-speaking communities throughout Quebec. Takes place at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater) at 12:30 pm. Free. 514.935.7344.

Saturday, Dec. 6: St. Matthias Church is having a fundraiser, "Carols, Tales and Tea", a sing-a-long of carols, storytelling for adults, and afternoon tea from 2 to 4 pm. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance. Info: 514.933.4295. ● The **Westmount Youth Orchestra's** 10th anniversary gala sponsors a holiday-themed benefit concert at Pollack Hall at the McGill Conservatory (555 Sherbrooke St. W.) at 7:30 pm. Features Connie Kaldor and Hart Rouge who will perform with the young musicians. \$25 (youth and under 18 years) and \$50 (adults and seniors). Tickets: 514.395.9425 and on sale at Victoria Hall from 9 am to 12 pm on Saturdays. Cash or cheque. ● The **Orpheus Singers'** annual Christmas concert at 8 pm at St. Matthias' Church (131 Côte St. Antoine). Adults: \$18 (\$20 at the door). Seniors and students: \$10 (\$12 at the door). 514.846.8464. www.orpheusmontreal.org.

Sunday, Dec. 7: Temple Emanu-El-Beth

Sholom hosts a bagel breakfast at 10 am and a panel discussion of finance specialists on the current global financial situation from 10:30 to 11:30 am. \$5. No reservation required. 514.937.3575. ● An old jewelry sale organized by two Westmount teens, Lara Berliner and Victoria Schouela, to raise money for Free the Children takes place at Westmount Park Church (corner Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve) between 1:30 and 5 pm. To donate jewelry, call Lara 514.932.6488. ● **Mountainside United Church** (4000 The Boulevard) presents its annual Christmas program "A Christmas Celebration of Music" at 4 pm. Features guest artist Rashiya Wilson on the steelpan and familiar Christmas carols for sing-along. Nursery facilities available. 514.486.1165.

Tuesday, Dec. 9: Christmas Tree Lighting Party at city hall at 6:30 pm. Christmas stories, carols and hot chocolate. Party is free, but donations of non-perishable food items for Westmount's Annual Holiday Food Drive are welcome. 514.989.5265.

Wednesday, Dec. 10: Barrie Baldero will perform *A Child's Christmas in Wales* at 2 pm at the Westmount Public Library. 514.989.5386.

Thursday, Dec. 11: Centre Greene's Annual General Meeting at 7 pm. Open to all. 514.931.6202 or www.centregreene.org.

Friday, December 12: Meet ceramic artist **Claire Salzberg** for coffee in the Gallery at Victoria Hall from 10 am to noon. Exhibition ends December 18. Info: 514.989.5226.

Saturday, Dec. 13: A Christmas-Hannukah Concert at the Westmount Baptist Church (corner Roslyn and Sherbrooke) at 4 pm featuring **The McGill Suzuki Group** (with

Bridge for Bright Brains: First World Mind Sport Games (WMSG) a success

BY GEORGE RETEK

First a bridge question. Holding: K7; K10853; 764; Q105; you hear the bidding by the opponents: INT-3NT. What is your lead?

The first WMSG concluded in Beijing, China on October 18, 2008. These games not only encompassed bridge, but also chess, draughts, go and xiangqui. More than 2700 players from 143 countries competed "Civilizations varied – wisdom unbounded" was the slogan of the WMSG, that was brilliantly organized by Jose Damiani, who also secured unprecedented sponsorship for this event that was covered by TV and Press worldwide.

Our Canadian open team lost its chance to qualify for the quarterfinal, when they didn't beat Trinidad in the last match of the round robin. Our ladies finished in the middle of the field and our Senior Team narrowly lost in the quarterfinal, as did our Junior Team.

Rule Britannia! England won the gold in the ladies event, while Italy beat England in the Open Team final.

Back to the question at the start. What do you lead? This was the last deal of the World Championship final. Against the Chinese declarer, the British player did not lead a Heart. At the other table, the Chinese defender had no qualms about leading a Heart.

This was the full deal (only East-West vulnerable.)

children aged 3 years and up) under the direction of Dr. Alfred Garson. Free event, followed by refreshments.

Monday, Dec. 15: Council meeting in Council Chamber at city hall at 8 pm.

North

♠ 9 2
♥ 4
♦ AKJ 9 8 2
♣ 8 7 3 2

East

♠ Q 10 6 4
♥ AJ 9 7 6
♦ 10
♣ 9 6 4

South

♠ A J 8 5 3
♥ Q 2
♦ Q 5 3
♣ A K J

Before the start of this last deal, England was leading by 11 victory points. Recording – 400 and –50 resulted in the loss of 10 vps. Thus England won the gold medal by 1 up! Should the Chinese defenders doubled (and England not escaped to 4 Diamonds) then the score would have been –400 and –100, resulting 11 vp and the match would have gone to overtime. Even the smallest difference is important.

MARCO CERIZZI

• ANTIQUE FURNITURE RESTORATION
• RESTORATION DE MEUBLES
ANTIQUES

7 GENERATIONS OF TRADITION
GÉNÉRATIONS D'EXPÉRIENCE

514-279-5758

Always On

The **Westmount YMCA** (4585 Sherbrooke St., 514.931.8046) offers four different programs to people aged 60 and up, for a single annual fee of \$6/year. All events take place at the Westmount Y:

● Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 1:15 to 2:15 pm: open swim as well as an Arthritic Aquafit Class designed specifically for older participants. Social tea, coffee and snack follow.

● On the first Tuesday of the month, the Social Tea turns into the Monthly Birthday Party where all of those born during that month are celebrated.

● On the second Tuesday of the month, take part in a discussion group on current events, including senior issues. Partici-

pants must be willing to take part in discussions.

The following activities take place at **Centre Greene** (1090 Greene Ave., 514.931.6202 or www.centregreene.org):

● Every Tuesday and Thursday: Tumbling Tots playgroup from 9:30 to 11 am. \$3.50/child per morning.

● Every Wednesday: Tai Chi-based Movement and Stretch from 11 am to 12 pm.

● Every Thursday: Ballroom Dance Classes for people living with Parkinson's at 2 pm. This is a social dance class led by instructors for those living with stage 1 or stage 2 Parkinson's. Must bring an able-bodied partner. To register, call Ellen Rubin 514.484.2016. No drop-ins please.

Furniture tailored to your taste and budget

We custom-make sofas, love seats, armchairs and ottomans in your choice of our fabrics.

ROBERT ALLEN WAVERLY® *Stalman*
OSBORNE & LITTLE
COLEFAX
AND FOWLER
Brunschwig & Fils®

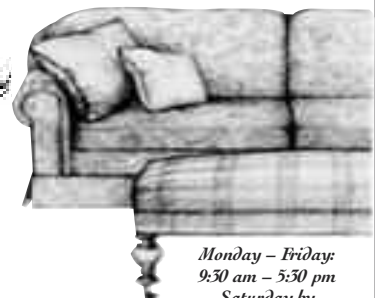
We have 20 years of home decorating service specializing in slipcovers, upholstery, draperies, bedspreads and duvet covers.

So furnish your home at Kathryn Osborne's.



Kathryn Osborne
DESIGN D'INTÉRIEUR INC.

1357 avenue Greene, 2^e étage, Westmount, Québec H3Z 2A5
Tél.: (514) 931-1357 • Fax: (514) 931-0101 • www.kathrynosbornedesign.com



Monday – Friday:
9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Saturday by
appointment only.

Westmount Profile

Tuning in to Bowser

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As a boy in England, he would lie on the floor mesmerized by his father's comedy records or whatever "funny shows" were on the radio. He didn't "listen to the radio," he says, "I was inside it."

So the journey that George Bowser would travel – from making his own cardboard guitars to packing the Centaur Theatre and other venues for musical comedy – is essentially an unbroken string that resonates with Quebec audiences.

"Put people in front of me and I come to life," he says. "I don't do well alone. I'm blue," he adds, smiling at the reference to his theatrical other half, Rick Blue.

But there's also another side to Bowser. The one that saw him take on Canadian Pacific some 20 years ago over a hole in the railway fence at the foot of Lewis Ave., where he then lived. It was, in a way, his first foray into politics, though he had no idea he would one day be seated at the city council table.

Meet today's Councillor Bowser who

represents District 5 and, like father like son, can also project a serious, almost stoic personality. While the older Bowser could howl with laughter at comedy shows, he was, in fact, a decorated British military officer, who married a British army nurse he met in Italy during World War II. This traditional side "is part of me," George says.

Growing up

He had a conventional upbringing in his native Sussex and attended a boys' school in Tombridge, Kent. He sang in the choir, loved to play piano – until he started taking lessons – and sang as he walked around school.

"My mother died when I was 17," he says. "I've come to realize the affect it had on me, though I didn't realize it as much at the time." It's probably why he ended up in Canada. His own family – wife Beryl and grown children, Jeanne, Oliver and Adam – is very important to him. "Oliver, has just helped design our new CD called *No Ordinary Dummies*," he notes.

Bowser initially came to Montreal in 1970 to visit his sister, Lindsay, armed with little more than his guitar. Only days later, through friends of hers in a band called Wizard, he found himself performing in bars and night clubs on tour in Quebec.

"People thought I was some sort of comic figure – an alien – running around opening doors for people." And his stock phrase became "*Je ne comprends pas. Je viens d'Angleterre.*"

A few years after marrying Beryl, whom he also met through friends of his sister, they moved to England. It was 1978. One day a stranger called Rick Blue showed up. He had been given their address by a mutual acquaintance in Montreal and needed a place to crash on holiday. "We consumed



George Bowser with guitar he brought from England in 1970.

a huge amount of beer, played guitar together and were an easy match."

When Bowser returned to Montreal a year later and needed someone to perform with, he called Blue. There was no fighting about who would play lead guitar – Bowser would – and Blue was tall enough for the six-foot-two Bowser to feel comfortable with on stage. "I can't play with short people. It looks silly."

Moving to Lansdowne Ave. in 2003, Bowser was recruited for the municipal election and won the seat for District 5. The experience was totally different from what he expected. "I was overwhelmed at first. I thought it was about helping citizens understand government, and government understand citizens."

But, as commissioner for Public Works and Parks, he began discovering potholes people wanted filling and numerous meet-

ings to attend.

He's interested in the issue of bicycles, skateboards and other "rolling stock" – and what he considers to be their erroneous classification as vehicles. This means the city and its public safety officers have no authority to ticket them for highway-code violations.

Display the artifacts

He also ponders the question of leadership vis-à-vis the mayor. "I hope to take a leadership role in ensuring that some of Westmount's historical artifacts – namely the totem pole and cannon – can be brought out of mothballs and put on public display as quickly as possible," he says.

Learning to skate at age 45, he's intent on the need to renew the arena. He was recruited by music-world colleague Jim West to play hockey on Westmount's in-house Executive B team, "but I was a head-down tripod." As a result, his hobby-time is now devoted to city council. Will he seek another term? "I'm hot and cold on that," he says. Meetings often conflict with work.

What's it like on those rare occasions when he actually gets to enjoy another show as a member of the audience? "It's an out-of-body experience!" he says.

Bowser's immediate future revolves around writing a show about smoked-meat landmark, Schwartz's, for presentation at the Centaur in 2010. "I have no idea if I'm in it or not," he says.

And for a moment, the serious and funny sides of Bowser converge. But then, that's really what he's is all about.



Come and Worship

Advent& Christmas at StMatthiasAnglican Church

Sunday December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Mattins with Holy Communion
5:00pm Lessons& Carols service

Sunday December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Eucharist

Wednesday December 24
10:00pm Christmas Eve service

Thursday December 25
8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Family Eucharist service
*Choir& strings play Malcolm, Monteverdi, Buxtehude

St. Matthias Anglican Church
131 Cote St. Antoine Rd.
(corner Metcalfe in Westmount)
Bus 24, 104, 138 to Sherbrooke
Metcalfe stop – walk one block North
514-933-4295

Joan J. Benson

**attorney
avocat**

4141 Sherbrooke St. W., Suite 660
Westmount, QC H3Z 1B8

514 937-8252
Fax: 514 932-5858
joanbenson@jbenson.ca

**practicing
for 27 years**

Westmount's adult league standings

Executive A	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
M.D. (Yellow)	7	3	0	4	10
C.E.O. (Grey)	7	2	2	3	7
P.H.D. (Blue)	7	2	3	2	6
C.A. (Green)	7	2	4	1	5

Executive B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
M.B.A. (White)	7	5	2	0	10
BROKERS (Blue)	7	4	3	0	8
LAW (Black)	7	3	4	0	6
ENGINEERS (Red)	7	2	5	0	4

Senior A	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
KINGS	13	10	2	1	21
BLUES	14	6	7	1	13
RED WINGS	14	6	8	0	12
BRUINS	13	3	8	2	8

Senior B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
PREDATORS	12	8	2	2	18
CANADIENS	10	7	2	1	15
FLYERS	10	5	3	2	12
SHARKS	11	5	6	0	10
NORDIQUES	10	4	4	2	10
SENATORS	11	4	5	2	10
HAWKS	11	3	4	4	10
DEVILS	11	4	6	1	9
FATHERS	11	1	4	6	8
OILERS	11	2	7	2	6

Best info as of Nov. 28



**1330 Greene Avenue
Westmount
514 933-6781**

RE/MAX WESTMOUNT INC.

**Outstanding Agents
Outstanding Results®**

CHARTERED REAL ESTATE BROKER independently owned and operated

**5673 Monkland Avenue
N.D.G.
514 482-3347**



490 Argyle Ave

Circa 1873. One-of-a-kind 3-storey corner townhouse. Inundated with light and views, 3 + 2 bdrms, garden & garage.

Westmount

4821A St. Catherine West
Sunny 2-bdrm condo,
2 balconies, parking.

\$319,000.

MLS #1478975



457 Mount Pleasant

Exquisitely renovated stonefront corner townhouse. Sophisticated, state-of-the-art furnishings. Spectacular 9-ft. basement.

\$1,650,000. MLS #1470928

Downtown

1700 René-Lévesque #1604
Custom 1,782 sq. ft.
condo, beautiful.

\$710,000.

MLS #8067089

Downtown

333 Sherbrooke East #403
Ultra-custom 3-bdrm condo
with terrace, custom.

Asking well below cost.



Joyce Faughnan

Chartered Real Estate Agent

RE/MAX WESTMOUNT Inc.
1330 Greene Avenue

514.933.6781



christina miller 514.933.6781

Affiliated Real Estate Agent – RE/MAX Westmount Broker

for more details: www.christinamiller.ca



The most important work we will ever do will be within the walls of our own homes.

WESTMOUNT PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Just Listed



4697 Westmount Ave.

Lovely & elegant
home in the heart
of Westmount

Asking \$895,000

Just Listed



716 Upper-Roslyn

Mint condition home in
one of Westmount's
finest locations

Asking \$998,000

Motivated



4736 Victoria Ave.

Sunny 3+1 bdrm cottage
w/garage & close to
shops, schools & transport

Asking \$689,000

Also for sale

598 Côte-St-Antoine

Impeccably reno'd mid-level home w/ 3+1 bdrms, finished basement, A/C, gar.+++

\$949,000

343 Clarke

Bright & spacious Parisian style 3 bdrms, 2 bths condo just steps to Greene Ave.

\$445,000

644 Grosvenor

BEST PRICE FOR QUALITY!! Marvellous large semi offers many extras & loads of reno's

\$1,097,000

2122 Vendôme

WSMT adj: Close to everything. Large 4+1 bdrm home across from Mt. Royal Tennis Club

\$799,000

109 Lewis

Close to Wsmnt Park & Victoria. Renovated 3+1 bdrms, new kitchen & finished basement

\$529,000

481 Argyle

Charming 3+1 bdrm Victorian home with deck, garage & large garden

\$829,000

436 Claremont – 2 bdrm condo – \$438,000 – Open House (Sunday 2 to 4)



Private backyard



Completely renovated



Original details

514-488-1049

514-933-6781

finehomes@kalecheff.com

**TANIA
KALECHEFF**

www.kalecheff.com

Chartered Real Estate Agent • B.Arch.



JOAN & JILL PRÉVOST

Affiliated Real Estate Agents

TOP 1% ACROSS CANADA*



Joan Prévost



Cell: 591-0804

Office: 514 934-1818
www.joanprevost.com



Cell: 915-1696



Jill Prévost, BComm

WHETHER BUYING OR SELLING, OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU IS...RESULTS!

WESTMOUNT FEATURED PROPERTIES



CHATEAU WESTMOUNT SQUARE – 20th floor – Best Westmount address! Unparalleled and unobstructed southern, northern and western views!! Corner unit with 2,939 sq. ft. of spectacular space for entertaining on a grand scale! Simply one-of-a-kind and not to be missed! A visit is worth a thousand words! **Asking \$2,195,000**



TRAFALGAR (WSMT ADJ.) – Spacious 3+1 bdrm residence on a quiet cul de sac w/over 10,000 sq. ft. of land waiting for your special touch! The open concept living/dining room w/French doors leading onto the terrace/garden is ideal for lavish entertaining! With its wonderful views & 2 car garage, a visit is a must! **Asking \$1,995,000**



CHATEAU WESTMOUNT SQUARE – 15th floor – The fabulous entertaining space you have been waiting for in Westmount's finest condo building! 2,375 sq.ft. 2+1 bedroom condo w/spectacular southern & mountain views from every window, 24 hour security, indoor pool, gym, squash court, restaurant & steps from trendy Greene Avenue! **Asking \$1,689,000.**



CHURCH HILL. Location! Country living in the city on a large corner lot of approx. 7,000 sq. ft. in prime mid-level Westmount! This 5 bedroom, 3-storey, detached home with central air is waiting for you to restore it to the Victorian home of your dreams! **Asking \$1,349,000.**

OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4



1 SEVERN – LOCATION! The perfect condo alternative situated on a quiet street in mid-level Westmount! Completely renovated from A-Z, this sunny 3+1 bedroom home is perfect for the couple who loves entertaining! With 2 garages, 2 terraces, a/c and top of the line appliances this home is not to be missed! **Asking \$1,349,000.**



ROSLYN – JUST LISTED! Completely renovated 3-storey, 3+1 bedroom home loaded w/country charm! From the exposed brick, brand new kitchen leading onto a private deck and garden with Jacuzzi, Mexican oak floors, fireplace, large master w/en suite, finished bsmt & 3-4 car prkg, this home is one-of-a-kind! **Asking \$1,095,000**



UPPER LANSDOWNE: Lovely and extremely bright 4+1 bedroom s/d home with fantastic western views! Featuring a cross-hall plan, double living room, upstairs den, large bedrooms, beautiful mouldings and detailing, hardwood floors, garage, large deck and garden. Situated across from Devon Park in upper Westmount, this home is awaiting your special touch! **Asking \$995,000.**



Ste. Catherine O.: Wonderful 3 bdrm renovated Victorian townhouse w/ a 2nd address for a bachelor/office! centrally located, this home features central air, Jatoba floors, granite kitchen, ground floor den, new roof & windows, high ceilings, skylight, 3-car parking ++ a pleasure to show! **Asking \$685,000.**



VICTORIA: Impeccable and sun-filled 2+2 bdrm ground floor condo w/ approx. 2,700 sq.ft. Of wonderful living space & exclusive use of the lovely backyard. W/central air, central vac, oak floors, tons of improvements & integ. Garage; this condo feels like a home & is steps from everything! **Asking \$649,000.**



ST. HUBERT (PLATEAU): Lovely and charming 2 bdrm renovated top floor condo with views of Mount Royal! Open concept granite kitchen with large island, sun-filled double living room with wood fireplace, 2 balconies, rights to rooftop for a terrace, beautiful columns/mouldings and garage! This condo will surely impress! **Asking \$479,000.**



ST. HUBERT (PLATEAU) WOW! The most unique condo to hit the plateau! Approx. 1,978 sq.ft. 2-storey, 3 bedroom, completely renovated condo with a/c! The 750sq.ft. rooftop terrace with whirlpool, bar and shower is ready for entertaining on a grand scale! One look at this condo and you will be impressed! Steps from Mount-Royal, this is a one-of-a-kind opportunity! **Asking \$569,000**



BEACONSFIELD – (Monkland village-NDG). Lovely ground floor 1,305 sf, (including bsmt) 2+1 bedroom condo steps from Monkland village! With its renovated kitchen, bath and finished basement, fireplace, wall-mounted a/c unit, rear garden off kitchen and the possibility of parking, this condo is not to be missed! **Asking \$339,000.**

OUR SUCCESS IS MEASURED... ONE FAMILY AT A TIME